

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 312670 TOSEC 340104
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 312670 TOSEC 340104

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM GABORONE DTD 29 DEC 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2392

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, BC, RH

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 296385

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KHAMA
FOR SECRETARY AT 1700 HOURS ON DECEMBER 29:

QUOTE: DEAR DR. KISSINGER:

I AM WRITING IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF 6 DECEMBER 1976
FOR WHICH I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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PAGE 02 STATE 312670 TOSEC 340104

I HAVE NOTED YOUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE THREATS TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I AM EQUALLY ANXIOUS
THAT EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO TRY TO SAVE THE CONFER-
ENCE FROM BREAKING DOWN. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, IN PAR-
TICULAR, THAT THE VARIOUS PARTIES AT THE CONFERENCE
SHOULD REALIZE THAT IF THEY STICK UNCOMPROMISINGLY TO

THEIR VARIOUS POSITIONS THERE WILL BE NO HOPE OF EVER REACHING AGREEMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE DURING THE CURRENT RECESS TO TRY TO WORK OUT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE RHODESIA PROBLEM. DURING THESE EFFORTS WE HOPE TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES AS POWER SHARING, MAJORITY RULE, AND BRITAIN'S RULE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, DO OUR BEST TO PERSUADE ALL CONCERNED TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE; AND I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE U.S., FOR ITS PART, WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE RHODESIAN REGIME TO BE REASONABLE. I HOPE, IN PARTICULAR, THAT MR. SMITH CAN BE PERSUADED TO DROP HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE PROPOSALS HE ANNOUNCED ON 24 SEPTEMBER ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, SERETSE M. KHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA. UNQUOTE

2. EMBASSY POUCHING ORIGINAL OF LETTER.
NORLAND UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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